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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Washington 25, D. C.

873372

PHONY PEACH AND PEACH MOSAIC CONTROL

NATURE OF THE PEST

Phony peach and peach mosaic diseases are caused by plant viruses. Phony peach is transmitted by several species of leafhoppers. The vectors of peach mosaic are unknown. These viruses do not kill the trees but the production of marketable fruit is severely curtailed.

CROPS AFFECTED

These diseases attack peach and related trees, including apricot, nectarine, almond and plum.

DAMAGE AND ESTIMATED LOSSES

The viruses of phony peach and peach mosaic do not kill the trees but infected trees produce only small, rough, and inferior fruit which is unmarketable. Phony peach disease, which is confined to the Southeastern States, has caused loss equivalent to the normal production of 3 million trees, and peach mosaic disease, which is present in the Southern States from Texas westward, has caused loss equivalent to the normal production of some 400,000 trees. These diseases are a potential threat to all the peach trees in the United States.

CONTROL PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to reduce losses due to phony peach and peach mosaic diseases and to prevent the spread of these diseases. This is accomplished by the early detection of the symptoms of the diseases, prompt removal of diseased trees, destruction of wild and domestic plums in areas circum-jacent to peach orchards, and by regulating the movement of nursery stock from infected to uninfected areas.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

This program is authorized by the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, as amended (7 U.S.C. 151-167) and the Organic Act of 1944, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147a).

July 7, 1954



